

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 28, 30, 31, 45, and 57 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled or added. Therefore, claims 1 and 21-57 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

The Examiner notes that some of the amendment indications in the prior office action response were missing. Applicants therefore respectfully submit the correctly marked claims, as amended. For clarification, Applicants are including separate sheets, attached hereto as Appendix A, showing the claim amendments made in the previous response, some of which were not correctly indicated.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Examiner rejected claims 1, 21-52, 56, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner suggests that the limitations discussed above with respect to the claim objections are not supported by the Specification.

The Examiner objects to the amended language of claim 1, which recites “a user output device to provide, prior to the message being sent, an indication of an action to be taken...” The Examiner suggests that the limitation is not supported by the Specification. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

With respect to the question of where messages are sent, messages are sent to the object data base, along with links determined by keyword detection or manual selection, and, for collaborative keynotes, to Delegatee and FYI recipients accessible via email or other messaging means. Specific object data base destinations are determined by the contents of the output display showing the information objects to which the input message is linked. Support for this can be found in the Specification, for example, at Column 24, Lines 38-46.

With respect to the query regarding where the message is sent and how the user output device operates prior to the message being sent, Fig. 6 and Fig. 7, and Column 7 line 45-Column 8 line 45 of the specification set forth how the message is sent to the object data base and, if it is a collaborative message, to one or more Delegates or FYI recipients. Prior to the message being sent, the output device, in the Shadow region, displays to the user the actions that will take place on sending the message, as shown in Fig. 4-Fig. 7.

With respect to the use of default keywords or manual selection of the keyword, the specification states that the function of the shadow area includes capture of icon selections by the user, and the drop down list, whose performance accords with existing "conventional methods", is "for a user to select the display of the linked object type." This is done either to override the parser's selection of a link, as in claim 31, or, as in claim 52, for the system to make a default selection from the list of linkable information objects when the parser has found no keyword specifying a link to an object type corresponding to a particular icon and the user has not manually selected a link. See Column 7, lines 33-36, and Column 8, lines 9-14, for example.

With respect to using text other than the keyword as variable data, the Specification notes that input text data may be provided as a structured record or buffer from which the object database extracts the information necessary to create the link table. (Column 24, lines 9-17)

With respect to Examiner's argument regarding the limitation of "prior to executing the information object", the Examiner is respectfully referred to Column 7, lines 1-14, and column 7, line 59 to column 8, line 12 which describes the Shadow region being populated as the keynote is being entered. As is described by the Specification, this necessarily occurs prior to sending the keynote, since the destination of the keynote is determined by the results of the parsing.

With respect to the Examiner's objections to the keyword having an alias, Applicant respectfully refers the Examiner to Column 24, line 47: "In one embodiment, the keyword 'please' may initiate an action request. As discussed above, other keywords may be added to the list, at the user's discretion. For example, the user may add the keywords 'I need you to', 'pls', or similar words to indicate that the text entered is an action request." Thus user customization by adding keyword aliases is set forth in the specification. The word "pls" is clearly an alias or customized version of the word "please."

Examiner suggested that there is a lack of clarity of the term "execution of the information object." Execution of the information object means, after review by the user, saving the user message plus links to the object data base, sending it to a collaborating recipient, or otherwise initiating an action in response to the message, as described in

Column 10, lines 28-30: "The user is thus able to save the keynote, send the keynote, or initiate action upon the keynote..."

Applicants have provided specific references to the Specification which provides support for the claim language. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned if any language remains confusing, so that the Applicants can further clarify. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are supported by the Specification, and the written description requirement is met. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Examiner rejected claims 1, 21-52, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 1, the limitation "a user output device to provide, prior to the message being sent, an indication of the action to be taken by the associated information object in response to the message from the user" is clearly explained in the Specification. For example, at Column 3, line 4-6 "...and 4) a user output device for displaying to the user the identity of the information object to which the input text expression was linked; Column 7, lines 1-22 describe how the icons in the shadow can change state upon detection of a keyword to indicate a link to a corresponding object, and Column 7 lines 22-32 describe how the keyword within a message can be "distinctively displayed in the keynote itself" (i.e. by emboldening or changing font or color) upon the parser detecting a keyword linking the keynote to an object. This

display happens upon the data being parsed, and thus prior to the message being sent, as described above.

With respect to claims 36, 49, and 57 the Examiner objects to the language “executing an information object.” Execution of the information object means saving the user message plus links to the object data base, sending it to a collaborating recipient, or otherwise initiating an action in response to the message, as described in Column 10, lines 28-30: “The user is thus able to save the keynote, send the keynote, or initiate action upon the keynote...” Applicant respectfully submits that this is supported by the Specification, and would be understood by one of skill in the art as having the computer system act upon the user’s text message.

With respect to the lack of antecedent basis issues in claims 28, 31, and 57, Applicant has amended claim 28 to correctly provide antecedent basis.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Examiner rejected claims 53-56 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,966,652 to Coad et al.

Coad describes a system that *receives* a text message on a cellular telephone. The received text message is presented as a scrollable list of options (Fig 5A). The only user actions are to scroll up and down the options list to a selected option, and then to hit the ‘SEND’ key 20a. This effects an automatic call back to a telephone number determined by the selected option. The Coad user touches only three keys: ‘Up Arrow’

20b to scroll up, 'Down Arrow' 20c to scroll down, and 'SEND' 20a to initiate a call back to the number related to the selected option.

Claim 53 recites:

An apparatus for executing action in response to a message entered by a user in a computer system, the apparatus comprising:
a user input device for receiving an input message from the user;
a parser to identify a keyword in the input message, the parser to parse the input message as it is entered to immediately detect a keyword as it is entered, and the parser further to associate the input message to an information object associated with the keyword; and
a user output device to provide information to the user.

Applicants respectfully submit that Coad does not teach or suggest “a parser to identify a keyword in the input message, the parser to parse the input message as it is entered to immediately detect a keyword as it is entered.” The user of the Coad system *receives* (never “enters”) a text message on a cellular telephone. The received text message is presented as a scrollable list of options (Fig 5A). The only user actions are to scroll up and down the options list to a selected option, and then to hit the 'SEND' key 20a. This effects an automatic call back to a telephone number determined by the selected option. Therefore, Coad cannot parse the input message as it is entered, as recited in claim 1. The Examiner equates the “input message” to the data input by the user. However, the user does not input a parseable message, but rather simply selects from a set of options. What is parsed (and here the term parsed means “detected”) is a start delimiter and termination delimiter in data sent by a server to the user. Clearly, this cannot be parsed as it is entered, since it is not entered by a human. Therefore, claim 53, and claims 54-56 which depend on it, are not obvious over Coad.

Conclusion

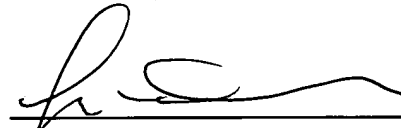
Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments and discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the present and amended claims should be found to be in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Judith Szepesi at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Judith A. Szepesi
Reg. No. 39,393

Customer No. 08791
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(408) 720-8300

APPENDIX A

Please find enclosed a copy of the claims, as amended in the prior response, filed on August 30, 2004.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for executing an action in response responding to a message entered by a user in a computer system, the apparatus comprising:

a user input device for receiving an input message from the user;

a parser to identify a keyword in the input message, the parser to associate the input message to an information object associated with the keyword; and

a user output device to provide, prior to the message being sent, an indication of an action to be taken by the associated information object in response to the message from present information to the user.

2-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
the parser further to detect the presence of a keyword in the message immediately upon the completion of a keyword, the parser to reparse the message whenever a word delimiter is detected in the message.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[21]] 1, wherein the parser is further to reparse the message upon detection of any keystroke, to immediately detect completion of a keyword.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a set of information objects, each information object designed to execute one or more actions when triggered by the user.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the action taken by the information object is based upon the contents of the input message other than the keyword.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the action combines data from the input message with data extracted from other sources determined by the particular information object.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the action comprises one or more of the following: posting to one or more data repositories, querying one or more data sources, triggering the execution of a stored program.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~an~~ the indication of the action is presented by the user output device at one or more of the following times: immediately upon detection of a keyword ~~as a~~ while the message is entered,

before the completed message is dispatched for execution, and after the message is dispatched, to confirm the initiation of the action.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the indication comprises one or more of the following: presenting output to indicate the presence of a keyword to the user, presenting user prompt information associated with the selected information object to the user.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:
a mechanism to override the selected information object, and redirect the action.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
the user input device further to enable the user to enter a command to initiate execution of the selected action.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
the user input device further to allow the user to override ~~the~~ a selection of the information object determined by the parser and presented by the output device after reviewing the action shown by the indication and prior to dispatching the message, and enabling the user to select an alternate information object for execution of the desired action.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

when the parser does not detect a keyword in the message, the user interface enabling the user to select an information object from a list of available information objects.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a list of keywords and the actions each of the keywords invokes available for the user's review while composing the message.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a user input device to enable the user to add customize the system by adding an alias to keywords associated with an information object, the alias used to invoke the information object in subsequent user messages.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
the user output device, upon execution of the action, to present to the user information obtained by executing the action called for in the input message.

36. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
an object database including a plurality of information objects, each information object coupled to one or more keywords;
a user interface to receive a user input message;
a parser to parse the user input message to detect one or more keywords and select the related one or more information objects; and

a user output device to provide feedback to the user indicating the action to be taken by the selected one or more identified information objects prior to executing the information object coupled to the detected keyword.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the user interface and the user output device are on a client device, and the object database and the parser are on a server.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the client device is a mobile system, further comprising a communication unit to communicate with the server.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the information objects execute one or more actions including: triggering a second information object, posting to a data repository, querying a data source.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein the second information object, comprising one or more of the following: a data repository or a data source, is on a remote server.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the user may override the selection of the information object presented in the feedback.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, further comprising:
one or more aliases for the keyword, the aliases created by the user, to enable customization.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the system waits for user confirmation prior to triggering the information object to take action.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the parser continuously parses the user input message to immediately detect the keyword.

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 44, wherein the user interface further displays the identity of the detected information object to the user immediately upon detection of the keyword.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 44, wherein the information displayed comprises one or more of the following: the detected keyword, the identity of linked information object, the action to be taken by the information object, a description of the action to be taken by the information object, and a prompt instructing the user how to complete the message.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, further comprising:
a first device including the user interface and the output device, to enable a first user to enter a keyword to create a message to a second user;

a second device including a user interface and a user output device used by the second user, to receive the message from the first device.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47, further comprising:
a messaging system to create the message including a header for the message based on the keywords, and to send the message to the second user.

49. (Currently Amended) A method to respond to a message comprising:
receiving an input message from a user;
identifying a keyword in the input message;
associating the input message with an information object associated with the keyword; and
presenting information to the user based on the information object prior to executing the information object.

50. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the parser parses the message upon detecting a word delimiter.

51. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the parser parses the message character-by-character as it is entered by the user.

52. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising:
determining if no keyword is identified in the input message, and

if no keyword is identified in the input message then associating a default information object with the input message.

53. (New) An apparatus for executing action in response to a message entered by a user in a computer system, the apparatus comprising:

a user input device for receiving an input message from the user;

a parser to identify a keyword in the input message, the parser to parse the input message as it is entered to immediately detect a keyword as it is entered, and the parser further to associate the input message to an information object associated with the keyword; and

a user output device to provide information to the user.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the parser parses the input message upon detection of a word delimiter.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the parser parses the input message character-by-character as it is entered by the user.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 53, further comprising:

the user input device to enable a user to customize keywords, by adding an alias to keywords associated with an information object, the alias used to invoke the information object.

57. (New) A system for executing an action in response to a message entered by a user in a computer system, the apparatus comprising

- a plurality of keywords, each keyword associated with one or more information objects, the execution of the information object causing the action to occur;
- a keyword including an alias created by a user, to customize the user's interaction with the system;
- a user input device for receiving an input message from the user, the input message including at least one keyword;
- a parser to identify the keyword in the input message, the parser to associate the input message to an information object associated with the keyword; and
- a user output device to provide feedback to the user.